Hibiscadelphus woodii

Hibiscadelphus woodii, or "Wood's hau kuahiwi",[1] is a species of flowering plant in the family Malvaceae, endemic to Kauai, Hawaii. It is a small tree, reaching a height of 2.5–5 m (8.2–16.4 ft).

It was discovered in 1991 and described as a new species in 1995. Only four individuals were found at that time; three of those were crushed by a boulder and died between 1995 and 1998, and the last was found dead in 2011. Pollen was found to be inviable, no fruit set was ever observed and all attempts at propagation, including by cross-pollination with *H. distans*, failed.[2] It was later assessed as extinct by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2016,[3] but three individuals were rediscovered in 2019 by the National Tropical Botanical Garden.[4] The plants were growing out of a steep cliff and were found using drones.[5]

Hibiscadelphus woodii	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
Clade:	Tracheophytes
Clade:	Angiosperms
Clade:	Eudicots
Clade:	Rosids
Order:	Malvales
Family:	Malvaceae
Genus:	*Hibiscadelphus*
Species:	***H. woodii***
Binomial name	
Hibiscadelphus woodii Lorence & W.L.Wagner	

Description

Hibiscadelphus woodii inhabits basalt scree and cliff walls in ʻōhiʻa lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) dominated mixed mesic forests at an elevation of 915 m (3,002 ft). Associated plants include kokoʻolau (*Bidens sandvicensis*), ʻāhinahina (*Artemisia australis*), alani (*Melicope pallida*), naʻenaʻe (*Dubautia* spp.), ʻānaunau (*Lepidium serra*), nehe (*Lipochaeta* spp.), kolokolo kuahiwi (*Lysimachia glutinosa*), *Carex meyenii*, ʻakoko (*Euphorbia* spp.), manono (*Hedyotis* spp.), kuluʻī (*Nototrichium* spp.), *Panicum lineale*, kōlea (*Myrsine* spp.), *Stenogyne campanulata*, *Lobelia niihauensis*, and Mann's Bluegrass (*Poa mannii*).[6]

References

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